

Tutorial -Toolbox and options. Selections, Layers, History

The Tools

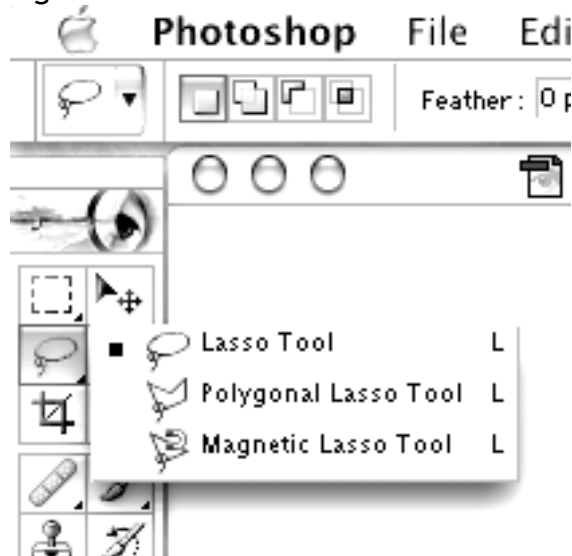


If the Tool palette is not visible, From the Window menu choose Tools.

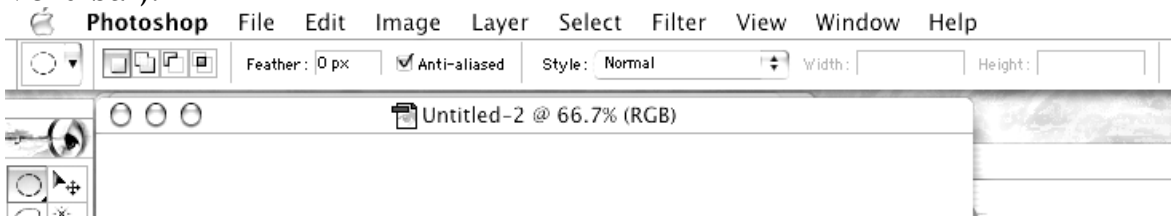
Hold your cursor over each tool in turn to see its name and keyboard shortcut. Familiarise yourself with the tools names.



Any tool icons that have a little arrow in the bottom right hand corner have a fly out containing other tools. Hold down on the icon to see the other tools. Drag to a tool and let go to choose it.



Each tool has options that can be set (above the top of the image and below the Menu bar).



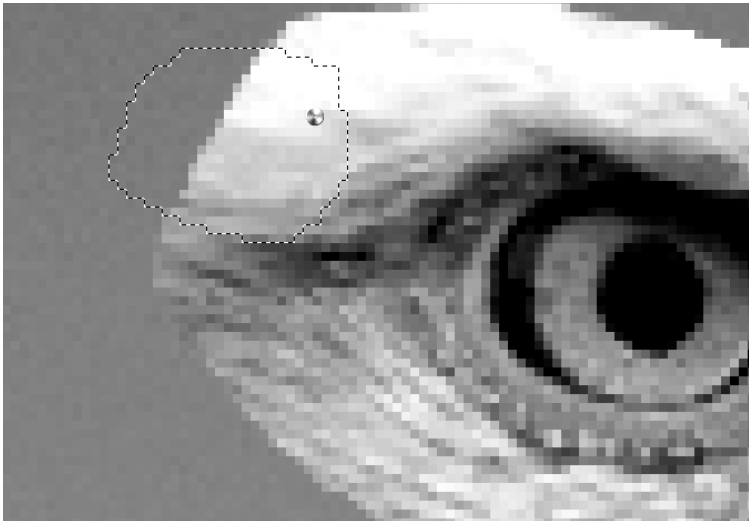
Tool Options - Anti-Aliasing

1. Open the file "eagle.psd" from the Samples folder
2. Select the lasso tool
3. In the options set feather to 0 and make sure there is a tick in anti-aliased
4. Draw roughly around the eagle's eye including grey feathered area.
5. Copy (Edit -> Copy or command C)
6. Deselect (Select -> Deselect or command D)
7. Paste (Edit -> Paste or command V)

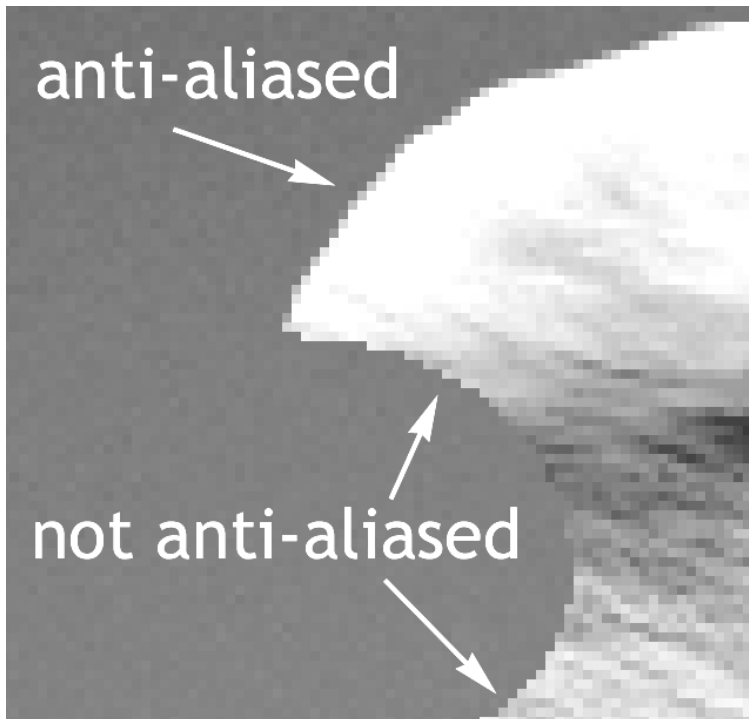
A second eye has been pasted into the centre of your document.



8. Use the Layer move tool and drag it up to the green background area .
9. Use the Zoom tool and zoom in on the edges of the pasted eye.
10. Choose the lasso tool again.
11. Take the tick out of anti-aliasing
12. Roughly draw a circle that intersects with the pasted eye.



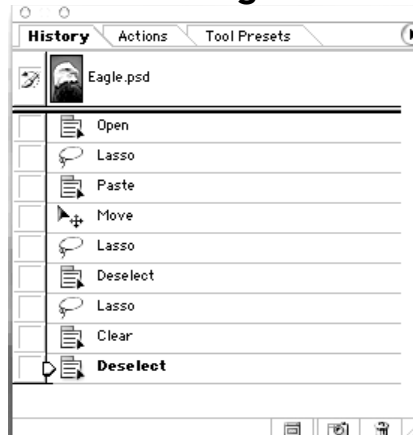
13. Delete the selected area (Delete key on the keyboard)
13. Deselect



Anti-aliasing is a slight blurring of edges in order to make edges appear smoother. The anti-aliased edge you chose when first selecting the eye produced a softened slightly blurred edge which, at normal size, appears to our eyes to be smoother. The non anti-aliased edge you just produced looks like hard edge square pixels and will appear rougher at normal size. For almost all of your imaging work in Photoshop, you will need to use anti-aliased edges.

There is an anti-aliasing option for each selection tool except rectangular marquee.

History Palette - Undoing and re-doing



The History palette shows each of the steps you have done so far, up to a maximum number set in your preferences. The bottom, currently active state, is the last thing you did.

1. Find the History Palette (If it isn't on screen choose Window -> History)
2. Click on the choice just above the bottom one. This is much the same as choosing undo from the Edit menu.
3. Drag the triangular pointer (at the left edge of the state's icon) upwards. This is undoing each of the steps you drag past.
4. Click back on the bottom state again. Now your document is as it was.
5. Click on the name of the document at the top of the history palette. This reverts your document to the last saved version.

If you click on a previous state and then start work, all subsequent (greyed out) states will be deleted and replaced by the new processes you are now doing.

Tool Options - Feathering

You should now be looking at the reverted eagle.psd file.

1. Choose the elliptical marquee tool, in the options set the feathering to 20.
2. Draw a selection around the beak.
3. Copy it.
4. Paste it.
5. Move it down to sit it over the dark feathers to make the edge apparent.

Feathering makes a soft blurry edge to the width (in pixels) that you set.

Layers Palette



Every time you paste something, Photoshop puts it on its own new layer and makes that new layer the active layer. In this document, Layer 2 was created when you pasted the beak.

1. Find the Layers Palette (Window -> Layers)
2. Click on the eye icon (to the left of Layer 2's thumbnail) to hide it. The beak should disappear from you image. Click again on the eye icon to show it.
3. Drag Layer 2 to be beneath Layer 1.

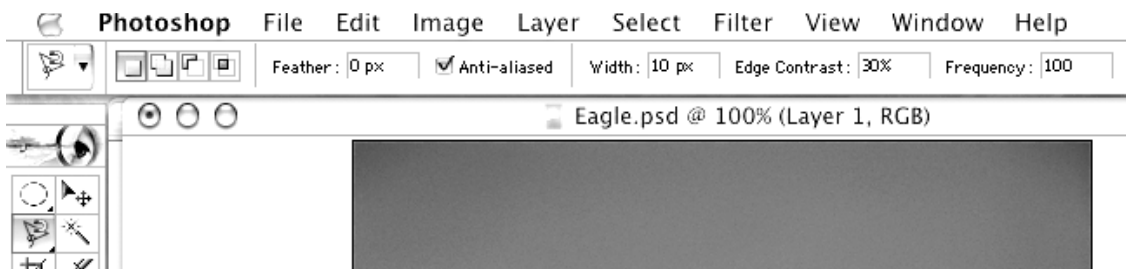
Now the beak you pasted disappears. It is underneath the main eagle picture. the Layers indicate a stacking order from bottom (furthest in the background) to top (closest in the foreground.)

4. Drag Layer 2 back up to be above Layer 1.

Whichever layer is currently active (highlighted and with the pencil icon to the left of its thumbnail) is the layer that will be altered by any processes you do.

5. Check that Layer 2 is your active layer (if not, click once on it)
6. Choose the brush tool, choose a colour from the foreground colour chip, choose brush size and opacity in the Options.
7. Draw squiggles and lines.
8. Check to see which layer the squiggles are on, by hiding each layer in turn.
9. Double click on the Layer 2's name and rename it "beak"

Tool Options - Magnetic Lasso



1. Using the History palette, revert the file
2. Select the magnetic lasso tool
3. Have a look at its options:
 - width* - alters the area to be checked
 - edge contrast* - alters the sensitivity to image contrast
 - frequency* - alters how finely the process is done
4. Leave them as they are and draw around the edge of the eagle. Double click to finish the selection. Take note of how accurately the selection was made.
5. Deselect.
6. Change the edge contrast to 30 and the frequency to 100 and draw around the eagle again.



It is most likely that the bottom area, where the dark feathers bleed out to the edge of the document, was inaccurate. And that areas of green background have been included for example under the beak

Selections - Add to and Subtract from a selection

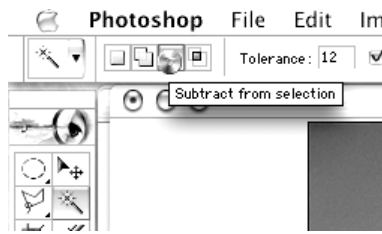
To add the areas that were not picked up by the magnetic lasso:

1. Choose the polygon lasso tool
2. Hold the shift key and click inside the selected area
3. Keep holding shift and keep using the rubberbanding technique (move the cursor then click, move the cursor then click...) to carefully include areas that were left out.
4. To finish the selection, double click.

To subtract areas from a selection that should not have been included:

1. choose the magic wand / auto selection tool
2. Set its tolerance option to 12
3. Hold the Option key and click on any areas of green background that have been included in your selection.

If you prefer, you can use the buttons in the options instead of holding Shift or Option.

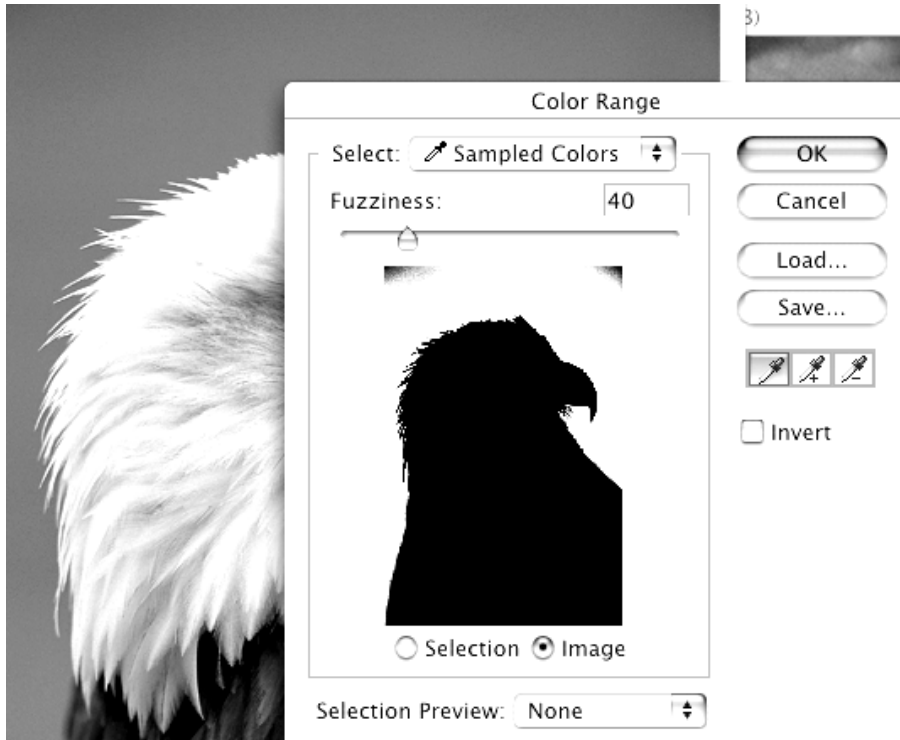


You can use any selection tool you like when adding to or subtracting from a selection. Keep working on the selection of the eagle until it is accurate. Don't forget to zoom in on detailed areas.

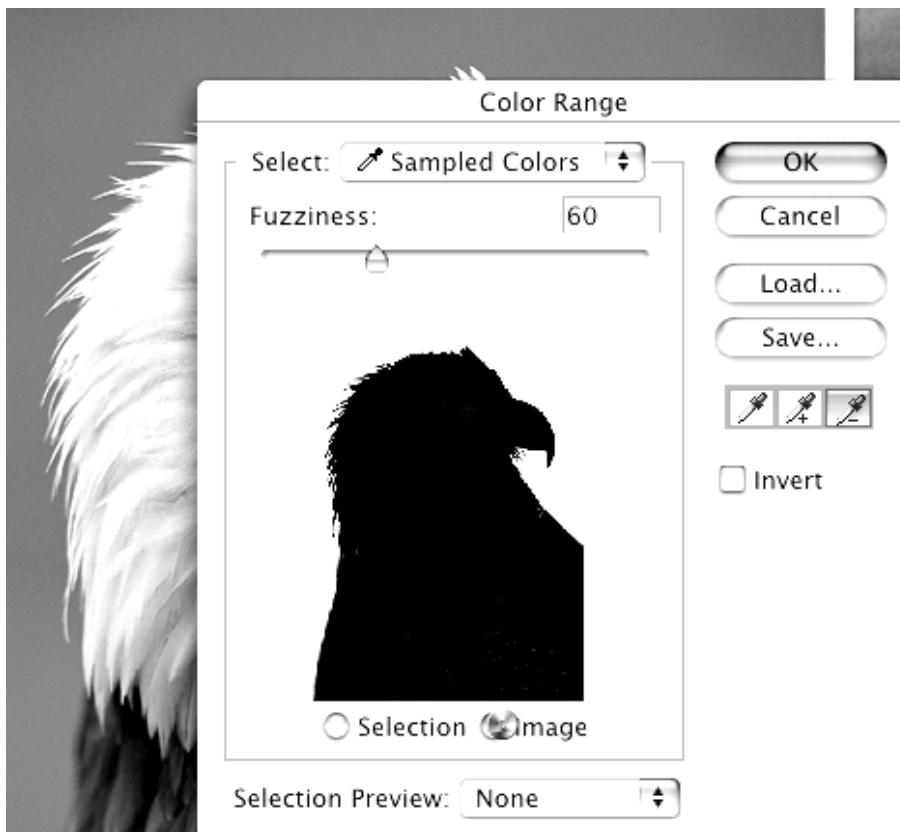
4. When you have the selection, copy it.
5. Open the file "dune.psd"
6. Paste
7. Use the move tool to position the eagle.
8. Choose Transform from the Edit menu (shortcut command T)
9. To scale the eagle down keeping its proportions intact, hold the shift key and drag on a corner handle of the transform box.
10. Scale the eagle down to about half its original size. Press the Return key.
11. From File choose Save As... Choose Photoshop as the format and save it as "collage01.psd" into your own folder.

Selections - Select colour range and the Select menu

1. From Window -> Documents choose the "eagle.psd" file again.
2. Deselect any selection.
3. From the Select menu choose Colour Range. A dialogue box appears and your cursor changes to an eye dropper.



4. Click on the green background behind the eagle.
The black and white image represents the areas that would be selected. White indicates selection, black indicates no selection.
5. Change the fuzziness slider to increase and decrease the range of greens this would select. See how the selection image changes.
6. Set the fuzziness slider to 60
7. Choose the eye dropper with the plus sign beside it. Click on any green background areas that aren't yet white in the image.
8. Use the Plus eye dropper and if necessary the minus eye dropper, until the selection image shows a clean silhouette of the eagle then press OK



9. From the Select menu choose Inverse. now the eagle is selected not the background
10. Copy
11. View or open your "collage 01.psd" document again
12. Paste
13. Scale the second eagle down to about the same size as the first eagle.
14. From the Edit menu choose Transform -> Flip horizontal
15. Position the new eagle and compare the two.
16. Save the file

Selections - Select menu

1. Activate the layer that contains the first eagle you pasted in. (click on it)
2. Hold the command key and click on the layer name. (shortcut to select everything in a layer)
3. From the Select menu choose *Modify -> Border*
4. Enter 4 as the width and press OK.

This makes a narrow selection only around the edge.

5. From the Filter Menu choose *Blur -> Blur more*

This will make only a slight difference, but the eagle should now look less cut out and stuck on top.

6. Save the file